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㉓ Controlled-release pharmaceutical formulations.

㉔ A pharmaceutical controlled release formulation is disclosed which does not substantially disintegrate but gradually releases a physiologically active substance in the gastrointestinal tract and which comprises a granulation product - (granules) obtained by adding release controlling agent (e.g. an aqueous suspension of a water insoluble macromolecular substance, an aqueous emulsion thereof, a water containing organic-solvent solution thereof, or water) to a mixture of i) physiologically active substance and ii) carrier substance (e.g. crystalline cellulose) in an amount of at least 50% by weight based on the weight of the product, and granulating the resultant mixture. The active substance containing granules have a high mechanical strength, disperses widely in the gastrointestinal tract when administered, are water permeable but do not substantially disintegrate in the gastrointestinal tract.

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This invention relates to a novel and effective pharmaceutical controlled-release formulation for oral administration.

When a controlled-release pharmaceutical formulation is administered to a living body, intra-or inter-individual variations in effect occur frequently influenced by factors in the pharmaceutical formulation or factors in the living body. One of the factors in the living body is a variation in gastrointestinal transit time. A formulation which reduces the effect of this factor is known (H.Bechgaard and G.H.Nielsen, Drug Devel.Ind. Pharm., 4, 53[1978]. This is a formulation form (such as tablets, hard capsules, etc.) which disintegrates in the gastrointestinal tract to form a number of particles (e.g., microcapsules, microspheres, etc.) which are distributed broadly in the gastrointestinal tract and from which an active substance is gradually released.

10 Hitherto, there are known various materials and various production processes for obtaining individual particles (e.g., microcapsules, microspheres etc.) of controlled-release pharmaceutical formulations containing an active substance.

15 For example, waxes, lipids, water-insoluble macromolecular materials, ion-exchange resins, etc., are known as the above-mentioned materials. A production process for individual particles frequently requires a complicated and long step of preparing granules containing an active substance and other material(s) and applying thereto an enteric coating. In such a production process the production cost is frequently high and the reproducibility of the dissolving characteristics of products is not good.

20 As a material for forming a structured particle that is not easily disintegrated in the gastrointestinal tract crystalline cellulose (formerly "microcrystalline cellulose") is known. A pharmaceutical formulation using crystalline cellulose in an amount of about 10 to 40% by weight based on the weight of the formulation is described in Japanese Patent Publication No. 5275/70. The above-described patent described a controlled-release pharmaceutical formulation containing as active substances bis (o-benzoylthiamine)disulfide, but an enteric coating is necessary in order to prolong the release time. The pharmaceutical formulation of the patent has a structure which does not easily disintegrate in the gastrointestinal tract. It is known that if the 25 amount of crystalline cellulose is about 10 to 40% by weight, the pharmaceutical formulation is insufficiently strong and also generally provides insufficient controlled-release of active substance.

25 Furthermore, European Patent Publication 80341A describes an invention of "oral pharmaceutical controlled release multiple-units formulation". However, in the invention, "cores" are produced by a complicated process and also enteric coating is applied thereto for obtaining controlled-release.

30 Moreover, the above-described pharmaceutical formulation does not disintegrate in the stomach and is prepared with the addition of disintegrants so that the coating is eroded and the core itself disintegrates in the small intestine.

35 The present invention provides a controlled-release pharmaceutical formulation suitable for oral administration which shows a reproducible dissolution rate without enteric coating and which can be simply produced.

40 Thus, the invention provides a pharmaceutical controlled-release formulation characterised in that it does not substantially disintegrate but gradually releases a physiologically active substance in the gastrointestinal tract and in that it comprises a granulation product (granules) obtained by adding release controlling agent to a mixture of i) physiologically active substance and ii) carrier substance in an amount of at least 50 % by weight based on the weight of the product, and granulating the resultant mixture.

45 Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 are graphs each showing the change with the passage of time of the concentration of a physiologically active substance (5-[2-(o-ethoxyphenoxy)-ethylamino]propyl]-2-methoxybenzenesulfonamide hydrochloride: hereinafter, referred to as YM-12617) in plasma after orally administering the controlled-release pharmaceutical formulation of this invention as tablets to humans and

50 Fig. 3 is a graph showing the change with the passage of time of the concentration of a physiologically active substance (YM-12617) after orally administering the controlled-release pharmaceutical formulation of this invention as capsules to beagle dogs.

The above-described granulation product (active substance-containing granules) for use in this invention may be water-permeable but is not substantially disintegrated (i.e., scarcely disintegrates or does not 55 disintegrate for at least a few hours) in the gastro-intestinal tract. Also, the pharmaceutical formulation of this invention has a high physical strength and the product is rarely crushed when formed into tablets by compression. Furthermore, by properly selecting an enteric coating agent and properly controlling the compounding ratio of the preparation of the granulation product (active substance-containing granules), a granulation product having the desired dissolving characteristics can be obtained.

55 The purpose of the carrier is to provide, on granulation, cohesive units (granules) containing the active substance. The material used as carrier is capable of forming a structured particle of the formulation.

A suitable material for use as the carrier of this invention is crystalline cellulose. Also, chitin and chitosan can be used. The amount of carrier is at least 50% by weight, preferably at least 70% by weight

based on the weight of the granules.

The release controlling agent in this invention is involved as a binding agent for granulation, and may be for example; water-soluble macromolecular materials such as acrylic acid series polymers, acrylic acid series copolymers; and cellulose derivatives such as ethyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose phthalate, and hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose acetate succinate. The release controlling agent is suitably used in the form of an aqueous suspension, an aqueous emulsion, or a water-containing organic solvent solution. They are also commercially available as, for example, Eudragit L 30 D (Röhm Co., trade name; aqueous suspension of methacrylic acid-ethyl acrylate copolymer), Eudragit E 30 D (aqueous suspension of an ethyl acrylate-methyl methacrylate copolymer), Aquacoat ECD-30 - (aqueous suspension of ethyl cellulose), etc. They can be used as the release controlling agent as they are or diluted with water. Also, low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose (L-HPC) or ethyl cellulose can be used as an aqueous gel. Furthermore, water-insoluble polymers may be used as solution systems in a water-base mixed solvent containing an organic solvent.

In addition, water itself can be used as the release controlling agent. That is, crystalline cellulose and a physiologically active substance can be formed into a granulation product by the addition of water.

There is no particular restriction on the amount of the release controlling agent but the amount suitable for wet granulation may be used. There is also no particular restriction on the concentration of the release controlling agent (as an aqueous liquid material) but since if the compounding ratio of the water-insoluble polymer is high, the release of the physiologically active substance is delayed, the amount of the release controlling agent (as aqueous liquid material) used may be suitably selected. Although there is no particular restriction on the amount of the release controlling agent, generally the amount is 0-30% (as solid component) or 50-150% (as aqueous liquid material, or water) by weight based on the weight of the granules. In addition, a water-soluble polymer which is usually used as a binder, such as hydroxypropyl cellulose, and polyvinyl pyrrolidone, may be used as the release controlling agent.

In this invention, for controlling the dissolving characteristics of an active substance, an alkaline earth metal salt (or an alkaline metal salt) of a higher fatty acid or an enterosoluble polymer may be added to the formulation.

The addition of the aforesaid material is effective when the physiologically active substance is a so-called micromedicament. Examples of the alkaline earth metal salt or alkaline metal salt of a higher fatty acid are magnesium stearate, and calcium stearate. Also, examples of the enterosoluble polymers are cellulose acetate phthalate, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose phthalate, and a methacrylic acid-methyl methacrylate copolymer (Eudragit L, S). The compounding amount thereof is usually 1 to 15% by weight.

When such enterosoluble polymer is used a plasticiser such as PEG 6000, Tween 80 (trade name), and triacetin, may be added.

The compounding amount thereof is usually 0 to 15% by weight based on the weight of the release controlling agent (solid component). In addition, an alkaline metal halide or an alkaline earth metal halide, such as sodium chloride, and calcium chloride can be used for the same purpose.

As described above, the release of the physiologically active substance can be controlled by selecting the kind of the release controlling agent and/or controlling the compounding amount of the alkaline earth metal salt (or alkaline metal salt) of a higher fatty acid or an enterosoluble polymer. According to the characteristics of the active substance, the release thereof can be also delayed by subjecting the active substance itself to a hydrophobic treatment. The hydrophobic treatment can be performed by micro-capsulating the active substance, by, for example a spray congealing method used wax. Examples of the wax which may be used for the purpose are hydrogenated vegetable oils such as hydrogenated castor oil.

There is no particular restriction on the physiologically active substance for use in this invention. The amount of the active substance is generally less than 30% by weight based on the weight of the granules.

In the test examples and examples described hereinbelow, 5-{2-[2-(o-ethoxyphenoxy)ethylamino]-propyl}-2-methoxybenzenesulfonamide hydrochloride (YM-12617) having a relatively low solubility in water (about 0.3 to 0.5%) was used as the active substance. Active substances having a high solubility can also, as a matter of course, be used in this invention.

YM-12617 shows an α -blocking action and can be used for the treatments of hypertension, cardiac insufficiency, low urinary diuresis, etc.

The formulation of this invention may also contain any of the usual additives or excipients such as filler, and coloring agent.

The mixture of physiologically active substance, carrier substance and optionally alkaline earth metal salt (or an alkaline metal salt) of a higher fatty acid or an enterosoluble polymer is granulated after the addition of the above-described aqueous liquid material or water as a release controlling agent. The granulation is performed by an agitation-type apparatus, a rotation-type apparatus, a centrifugal-type

apparatus, a fluidized bed-type apparatus, or an apparatus of mixed types.

The size (diameter r) of the granulation product - (particles) is 0.1 to 1.5 mm, preferably 0.2 to 1.0 mm.

The individual active-substance-containing particles thus obtained are formed into larger units such as tablets, capsules, granules etc.

5 The active substance-containing particles of this invention have a high mechanical strength, and mostly do not disintegrate when formed into tablets.

They disperse widely in the gastrointestinal tract when they are administered to a living body. Also, they are water-permeable but do not substantially disintegrate; they gradually release active substance into the gastrointestinal tract, whereby a long controlled release can be attained. Also, intra-and inter-subject 10 variations are very small and the physiological effects are excellent in reproducibility. Furthermore, the pharmaceutical formulation of this invention can be obtained by a simple and safe production process.

Tests and results showing dissolution characteristics and concentrations in plasma of the active substance of the controlled-release formulation of this invention are described below.

15 (1) Dissolution Test:

Test Procedure:

The test was performed by the paddle method of the 2nd dissolution test method in the Japan 20 Pharmacopoeia. That is, the test was performed by a UV method or a liquid chromatograph method (shown below) at a rotation speed of the paddle of 150 r.p.m., using 500 ml of a 1st liquid (artificial gastric juice) of the Japanese Pharmacopoeia and 500 ml of a 2nd liquid (artificial intestinal juice) of the Japanese Pharmacopoeia, respectively. A sample was first tested in the 1st liquid for one hour followed by the test in the 2nd liquid for one hour.

25 (i) UV Method

The pharmaceutical formulation obtained in each example shown below was used as a sample. The amount of each sample corresponding to 50 mg of YM-12617 was subjected to the aforesaid dissolution 30 test, the dissolved liquid was filtered, and the active substance in the filtrate was determined at a detection wavelength of 278 nm.

(ii) High Performance Liquid Chromatograph Method (HPLC Method):

35 The pharmaceutical formulation prepared in each example was used as a sample. The amount of the sample corresponding to 1 mg of YM-12617 was subjected to the aforesaid dissolution test, the dissolved liquid was filtered, and the active substance was determined under the following conditions.

Operation Conditions:

40 Detector: Ultraviolet Spectrophotometer (Detection wavelength of 225 nm)
Column: In a stainless tube of about 4 mm inside diameter and about 150 mm length was packed about 5 μ m of octadecylsilylated silica gel (e.g., Nucleosil 5C18, trade name) as a packing agent
45 Column Temperature: About 35°C.
Mobile Phase: Mixture of 0.05N perchloric acid and acetonitrile (7 : 3).
Flow rate: Constant amount of 0.8 to 1.5 ml per minute.

Test Results:

50 The results thus obtained are shown in Table 1.

Table 1

5	Example No.	% of YM-12617 in the units (w/w)	Test Method	Dissolution Rate(%)		Note
				1st Liquid* (1 hour)	2nd Liquid* (1 hour)	
10	1	1	UV	49.6		(A)**
15	20	"	HPLC	50.3	57.6	"
20	4	"	UV	45.6		"
25	5	0.5	UV	52.4	66.2	"
30	24	"	HPLC	60.4	72.6	"
35	6	"	UV	54.6		"
40	8	1	UV	42.7		(B)**
45	9	"	"	29.2		"
50	10	"	"	32.5		"
55	11	0.5	"	30.9		"
60	12	5	UV	42.7		(C)**
65	13	"	"	16.2	41.7	"
70	23	"	"	19.0	61.0	"
75	14	2	UV	54.2		(D)**
80	15	5	"	37.5	90.6	"
85	22	"	HPLC	38.0	91.0	"
90	16	"	UV	10.9	94.6	"
95	19	1	"	36.8	44.8	"
100	21	"	HPLC	41.3	44.2	"

(*): By the Japan Pharmacopoeia

(**): (A): Eudragit L30D-55 was used as the release controlling agent

(B): Particles containing magnesium stearate, The release controlling agent was same as (A).

(C): Granules containing ethyl cellulose as the release controlling agent

(D): Water was used as the release controlling agent

(2) Absorption Studies following Oral Administration:

(A)

5 (i) Tablets obtained in Example 20 were used as the sample of this invention and conventional tablets obtained in Reference Example 1 were used as a control. A dose corresponding to 1 mg of YM-12617 was orally administered to five adult male subjects, respectively, by a cross over method. Then, blood samples were withdrawn at definite time intervals and the concentration of the active substance in plasma was measured by the method shown below.

10 (ii) Determination Method of YM-12617 in Plasma: After adding 0.5 ml of an aqueous solution of internal standard substance (containing 0.5 μ g of amosulalol hydrochloride) to 1.5 ml of plasma, 1 ml of a saturated aqueous solution of sodium hydrogencarbonate was added thereto and the active substance was extracted with 4 ml of ethyl acetate. The ethyl acetate extract was further extracted with 2.5 ml of 0.4N hydrochloric acid. The hydrochloric acid layer thus obtained was adjusted to weak alkaline by the addition of 2 ml of a saturated aqueous solution of sodium hydrogencarbonate and then re-extracted with 4 ml of ethyl acetate. After adding 0.05 ml of an aqueous solution of 0.1 M sodium hydrogencarbonate and 0.1 ml of an acetone solution of 500 μ g of dansyl chloride, the ethyl acetate layer thus obtained was distilled under reduced pressure for 120 minutes at 35°C. After adding 4 ml of ether to the mixture, the organic layer thus formed was washed with 5 ml of water and then with 5 ml of an aqueous solution of 0.2 N hydrochloric acid. The solvent was distilled off from the organic layer, the residue thus formed was dissolved in 0.05 ml of a mixture of benzene and methanol (100 : 1), and using all of the solution the active substances was determined by a liquid chromatography under the following operation condition. The retention times for dansyl-YM-12617 and dansyl-amosulalol when the flow rate of the eluent was 1.4 ml/min. were 8.1 minutes and 12.5 minutes, respectively.

25 Operation Condition

Detector: Fluorescent Photometer (Excitation wavelength 365 nm, fluorescent wavelength 500 nm)

30 Column: In a stainless tube of about 4 mm in inside diameter and about 250 mm in length was packed by about 5 μ m of silica gel (e.g., Lichrosorb SI 100, trade name, made by Merck & Co., Ltd.) as a filler.

35 Column Temperature: About 10°C

Flow Rate: Constant flow rate of 1.2 to 1.9 ml per minute.

(iii) The results thus obtained are shown in Table 2, Table 3, and Fig. 1.

In Fig. 1,

40 shows tablets obtained in Reference Example 1, and "----X" shows tablets obtained in Example 20.

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Table 2

Concentration of unchanged YM-12617 in plasma when tablets of Example 20 were orally administered to humans in an amount corresponding to 1 mg YM-12617 (unit ng/ml)

Subject	Time	0.5	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	12.0	15.0	20.0	24.0	AUC (ng.hr/ml)
N	9.9	17.0	21.0	24.1	18.6	15.3	16.2	12.9	8.1	7.7	6.3	292.6	
K	11.4	25.8	18.4	30.0	25.5	25.0	24.2	16.4	15.3	10.1	8.7	415.8	
T	N.D.	17.5	17.5	14.7	18.4	15.1	17.1	10.5	8.1	7.8	5.8	270.3	
F	N.D.	5.3	26.0	27.7	23.7	15.4	20.4	10.7	7.5	5.7	3.7	285.7	
S	N.D.	8.6	14.9	18.1	16.4	20.3	13.1	8.3	8.2	7.5	5.4	250.4	
Mean Value	4.3	14.8	19.6	12.9	20.5	18.2	18.2	11.6	9.4	7.8	6.0	302.9	
S.E.	2.6	3.6	1.9	2.9	1.7	2.0	1.9	1.3	1.5	0.7	0.8	29.1	
N.D.:	Not detected;	S.E.:	Standard error										

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Table 3

Concentration of unchanged YM-12617 in plasma when the conventional tablets of Reference example 1 were orally administered to humans in an amount corresponding to 1 mg YM-12617 (unit ng/ml)

Subject	Time	0.5	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	12.0	15.0	20.0	24.0	AUC (ng.hr/ml)	
N	21.6	64.7	66.8	47.1	39.5	21.9	14.6		11.5	9.2	7.4	4.5	439.4	
K	56.5	78.6	112.3	50.4	41.8	27.4	25.1		11.7	14.1	5.5	3.9	572.6	
T	7.6	29.9	56.1	41.9	33.7	13.2	17.4	9.8	7.0	3.7	1.9	336.1		
N.D.	24.4	47.2	42.8	28.7	21.7	15.1		10.4	6.3	5.5	2.4	331.2		
S	15.1	41.2	43.0	31.5	23.1	20.0		12.1	9.3	4.9	6.0	362.6		
Mean Value	17.1	42.5	64.7	45.0	35.0	21.5	18.4		11.1	9.2	5.4	3.7	408.4	
S.E.	10.6	12.3	17.7	1.6	2.5	2.3	1.9	0.4	1.4	0.6	0.7	45.4		

As is clear from Fig. 1, in the case of administering the tablets prepared in Example 20, the concentration pattern of the active substance in plasma was good and showed the following features.

- The ratio of Cmax/Cmin is small, which shows long acting characteristics.
- Intra-individual variation is small.

(B)

(i) Tablets obtained in Example 21 were used as a sample of this invention and conventional tablets obtained in Reference Example 1 were used as a control. The amount of each sample corresponding to 1 mg of YM-12617 was orally administered to five adult male subjects, respectively, by a cross over method. Blood was withdrawn at definite time intervals, and the concentration of the active substance

in plasma was measured by the aforesaid method (A) (ii).

(ii) The results thus obtained are shown in Table 4, Table 5, and Fig. 2. In Fig. 2

shows tablets obtained in Reference Example 1, and "—X—" shows tablets obtained in Example 21.

Concentration of unchanged YM-12617 in plasma when tablets of Example 21 were orally administered to humans in an amount corresponding to 1 mg YM-12617 (unit ng/ml)

Subject	Time	0.5	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	12.0	15.0	20.0	24.0	AUC (ng.hr/ml)
H	N.D.	2.7	16.7	21.5	22.1	25.5	21.0	8.5	9.0	4.8	3.4	281.5	
K	N.D.	38.1	36.2	25.7	32.6	20.0	17.3	11.6	12.4	4.6	4.4	355.3	
HL	N.D.	5.8	15.3	28.6	22.3	17.4	13.4	10.1	8.9	5.6	5.6	299.4	
N	14.4	23.4	34.4	21.1	16.6	13.4	10.9	9.3	6.0	2.6	N.D.	232.9	
XA	N.D.	17.8	29.4	27.8	19.4	27.8	18.5	18.7	10.8	5.1	1.5	345.4	
Mean Value		4.6	16.4	24.5	22.3	23.9	21.8	17.0	12.3	9.7	5.2	3.0	302.9
S.E.		3.0	7.0	5.8	2.2	3.0	2.5	1.7	1.8	1.1	1.0	1.0	22.3

Table 4

Table 5

Concentration of unchanged YM-12617 in plasma when conventional tablets of Reference example 1 were orally administered to humans in an amount corresponding to 1 mg YM-12617 (unit ng/ml)

Subject	Time	0.5	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	12.0	15.0	20.0	24.0	AUC (ng.hr/ml)
H	17.0	44.7	34.4	21.9	18.8	18.2	11.8		6.3	3.2	3.2	2.4	252.4
K	6.3	47.9	64.9	34.3	37.2	28.2	12.6		8.7	6.5	3.0	N.D.	358.2
HI	N.D.		20.4	26.8	23.7	20.8	21.6		7.8	6.0	3.0	1.6	257.2
N	15.1	51.5	54.8	45.5	48.7	35.1	18.0		8.2	9.9	4.5	3.3	438.9
KA	2.8	33.6	49.4	45.1	35.1	27.8	26.1		10.4	7.4	6.4	5.1	412.7
Mean Value	8.2	35.5	44.8	34.7	32.7	26.0	18.0		8.3	6.6	4.0	2.5	343.9
S.E.		3.4	9.4	7.8	4.7	5.3	3.0		2.7	0.7	1.1	0.7	38.6

As is clear from Fig. 2, in the case of administrating the tablets prepared in Example 21, the concentration pattern of the active substance in plasma was good and showed the following features.

- The ratio of Cmax/Cmin is small, which shows long acting characteristics.
- Individual variation is small.

(C)

(i) Tablets obtained in Example 22 and capsules obtained in Example 23 were used as the samples of this invention and conventional tablets obtained in Reference Example 2 were used as a control. The amount of each sample corresponding to 10 mg of YM-12617 was orally administered to six beagle dogs by a cross over method. Blood was withdrawn at definite intervals, and the concentration of the

active substance in plasma was measured by the aforesaid method (A) (ii).
 (ii) The results are shown in Fig. 3. In Fig. 3,

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shows tablets obtained in Reference Example 2, "----X" shows tablets obtained in Example 22, and



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shows capsules obtained in Example 23.

As is clear from Fig. 3, in the case of administering tablets prepared in Example 22 and capsules prepared in Example 23, the concentration patterns of the active substance in plasma are good and show the following features:

- a) The ratio of C_{max}/C_{min} is small.
- b) Inter-individual variation is small.

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(3) Mechanical Strength of Active Substance-Containing Particles.

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Using the particles prepared by the same manner as Example 15, tablets were produced of the following formula. The compression pressure during tablet-making was varied, and the dissolution rate of the active substance was measured. (The determination was made by HPLC method). The results thus obtained are shown in Table 6.

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Tablet Formula:

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Particles	4.0 mg
Lactose	62.0 mg
Corn Starch	28.5 mg
CMC-Ca	5.0 mg
Magnesium Stearate	0.5 mg
Total	100 mg

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Table 6

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Compression Pressure	% Dissolved JP, 1st Liquid*	
	(1 hour)	(2 hours)
2261 kg/cm ² oil pressure.-press	45.9	57.6
4522 kg/cm ² oil pressure.-press	45.9	56.4
2261 kg/cm ² (Single press)	46.6	62.6
Particles	41.7	57.1

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As is clear from the above results, there is almost no change in dissolution characteristics with change of tabletting pressure. That is, it can be seen that the formulation of this invention can endure the tabletting pressures described above. The individual particles do not collapse and maintain their dissolution characteristics.

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(4) Relationship between dissolution characteristics and rotation speed in dissolution tests.

The rotation speed of the paddle in the dissolution test (1) described above was changed and the influence of the rotation speed on the dissolution rate was studied. (The active substance was determined by UV method.). The results thus obtained are shown in Table 7.

Table 7

Example No.	% dissolved, JP, 1st Liquid*, After 1 Hour.			
	Rotation speed of the Paddle			
	50 rpm	100 rpm	150 rpm	200 rpm
1	42.1	45.7	45.4	45.3
19	36.0	36.3	36.4	39.6

As is clear from Table 7, it can be seen that there is no change of the dissolution characteristics with change of rotation speed. Hence, the motion of the gastrointestinal tract in the living body scarcely influences the dissolution rate of the formulation of this invention.

(5) Stability of Dissolution Characteristics with the Passage of Time:

The product obtained in each example was stored under severe conditions (shown in Table 8 below) for one month and then the dissolution test as in above-described test (1) was performed on the product. In this case, the determination of the active substance was performed by UV method.

The results thus obtained are shown in Table 8.

Table 8

Test No. (Example No.)	Dissolution Rate (%)		
	Initial (%)	Value After 1 Month	
		50°C, Closed	40°C, 75% RH
4	45.6	45.5	-
11	32.9	37.1	34.2
12	42.0	43.8	42.7
15	39.5	37.5	29.6
16	38.7	36.9	30.8
23	18.4	21.7	19.2

As is clear from the above results when the samples of this invention are stored under the severe conditions, the change in the dissolution characteristics is very small and thus, the formulations are stable to the passage of time.

(6) Good Dissolution Reproducibility:

Three samples were prepared by the same manner as in Example 4 and the dissolution test as above was performed on each sample (the determination of the active substance was performed by UV method). The results thus obtained are shown in Table 9.

Tabl 9

Sample No. (Example No.)	% dissolved JP, 1st Liquid* (1 hour)
Example 4	45.6
4 - 1	45.4
4 - 2	45.9
4 - 3	45.3

(*): The 1st liquid in Tables 6, 7, and 9 above is artificial gastric juice in the Japan Pharmacopoeia.

From the results shown in Table 9, it can be seen that the samples of this invention show good dissolution reproducibility.

Examples 1-25 of the invention will now be described below, followed by Reference Examples 1 and 2.

Example 1 (Production of active substance-containing granules)

After sufficiently mixing 5 g of YM-12617 and 470 g of crystalline cellulose, a mixture of 83.3 g (25 g as solid component) of Eudragit L30D-55(Röhm Co.) and 500 g of water was added to the aforesaid mixture and the resultant mixture was granulated by a high-speed mixer. The granules obtained were spheres having particle sizes of 0.1 to 1.5 mm, mainly 0.2 to 1.0 mm.

Examples 2 to 7

By following the same procedure as Example 1 using the formulae shown in Table 10 below, active substance-containing granules were prepared.

Table 10

Formula (g)	Example No.					
	2	3	4	5	6*	7
YM-12617	5	5	5	2.5	2.5	1.25
Crystalline Cellulose	445	395	482.5	472.5	472.5	473.75
Eudragit L30D-55 (Solid comp.)	166.6 (50)	333.3 (100)	41.7 (12.5)	83.3 (25)	83.3 (25)	83.3 (25)

(*): Centrifugal fluidized bed granulator was used.

Example 8

After sufficiently mixing 5 g of YM-12617, 420 g of crystalline cellulose, and 50 g of magnesium stearate, a mixture of 83.3 g (25 g as solid component) of Eudragit L30D-55 and 500 g of water was added to the aforesaid mixture and the resultant mixture was kneaded and granulated by a centrifugal fluidized bed granulator. The granules obtained were spheres having particle sizes of 0.1 to 1.5 mm, mainly 0.2 to 1.0 mm.

Examples 9 to 11

By following the same procedure as Example 8 using the formulae shown in Tabl II, active substance-containing granules w re prepar d.

Tabl 11

Formula (g)	Example No		
	9	10	11
YM-12617	5	5	2.5
Crystalline Cellulose	460	445	462.5
Magnesium Stearate	10	25	10
Eudragit L30D-55 (Solid component)	83.3 (25)	83.3 (25)	83.3 (25)

Example 12

After sufficiently mixing 20 g of YM-12617, 300 g of crystalline cellulose, and 80 g of ethyl cellulose, 230 g of a mixed solvent of ethanol and water (8 : 2 mixing ratio) was added to the mixture and the resultant mixture was granulated by a high-speed mixer. The particle size of the particles thus obtained were same as described above.

Example 13

By following the same procedure as Example 12 and granulating the mixture by means of an ultra high-speed mixer, granules were prepared. The particle sizes of the granules were same as above.

Example 14

After sufficiently mixing 5 g of YM-12617 and 495 g of crystalline cellulose, 500 g of water was added to the mixture, and the resultant mixture was granulated by a high-speed mixer. The particle sizes of the granules thus obtained were same as above.

Example 15 to 18

By following the same procedure as Example 14 using the formulae shown in Table 12 below, active substance-containing granules were prepared.

Table 12

Formula (g)	Example No.			
	15	16	17	18
YM-12617	25	25	2.5	1.25
Crystalline Cellulose	475	475 [*]	497.5	498.75

(*): Centrifugal fluidized bed granulator was used.

Example 19

After melting 80 g of hydrogenated castor oil, 10 g of YM-12617 and 30 g of low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose were dispersed in the melt and the resultant mixture was granulated by a spray congealing method. After sufficiently mixing 60 g (5 g YM-12617) of the granulated product thus obtained and 440 g of crystalline cellulose, 500 g of water was added to the mixture and the resultant mixture was granulated by means of a centrifugal fluidized bed granulator. The particle sizes of the granules thus obtained were same as above.

Example 20

To 20 g of the particles (active substance-containing granules obtained in Example 1 were added 44.9 g of lactose, 26 g of starch, 9.7 g of crystalline cellulose, 3 g of CMC-Ca, and 0.5 g of magnesium stearate, and tablets were prepared using the mixture thus obtained by a conventional method (one tablet of 100.1 mg contained 0.2 mg of YM-12617).

Examples 21 to 23

By following the same procedure as Example 20 using the formulae shown in Table 13 below, pharmaceutical formulations in tablet and capsule form were prepared.

Table 13

	Formula, etc.	Example No.		
		21	22	23
20	Granules	20 g*	50 g**	50 g***
25	Lactose	46.5 g	64.9 g	50 g
25	Starch	28 g	-	-
30	Magnesium Stearate	0.5 g	-	-
35	Crystalline Cellulose	-	70	-
35	CMC-Ca	-	10	-
40	Hydrogenated Oil	-	5	-
45	Formulation	Tablet	Tablet	Capsule ^{4*}
45	Weight of one formulation	100 mg	200 mg	100 mg

(*): The granules obtained in Example 19

(**): The granules obtained in Example 15

(***): The granules obtained in Example 13

(4): Encapsulated by a conventional method.

Example 24

After sufficiently mixing 40 g of the granules obtained in Example 5, 24 g of lactose, 34.54 g of crystalline cellulose, 12 g of low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose, and 3 g of corn starch, 40 g of 10% corn starch paste was added to the mixture and the resultant mixture was granulated by a conventional method. Then, 2.4 g of a hydrogenated oil and 0.06 g of calcium stearate were added to the granules thus obtained and tablets were manufactured using the resultant mixture by a conventional method (one tablet of 120 mg contained 0.2 mg of YM-12617).

Example 25

After sufficiently mixing 5 g of YM-12617 and 467.5 g of crystalline cellulose, a mixture obtained by adding 414.2 g of water and 2.5 g of PEG 6000 to 83.3 g (25 g as solid component) of Eudragit L30D-55 (trade name) was added to the aforesaid mixture and the resultant mixture was granulated by a high-speed mixer. The granules were spheres having particle sizes of 0.1 to 1.5 mm, mainly 0.2 to 1.0 mm.

Reference Examples 1 and 2

Conventional tablets were prepared using the formulae shown in Table 14 below.

Table 14

Formula.	Reference Example No.	
	1	2*
YM-12617	0.2 g	2.5 g
Lactose	66.7 g	63.0 g
Starch	28.6 g	-
" (for paste)	3.5 g	-
Magnesium	1.0 g	1.0 g
Stearate	-	-
Corn Starch	-	30.0 g
" (for paste)	-	3.5 g
tablet	100 mg	100 mg

(*): Prepared by fluidized bed granulator.

Claims

1. A pharmaceutical controlled-release formulation characterised in that it does not substantially disintegrate but gradually releases a physiologically active substance in the gastrointestinal tract and in that it comprises a granulation product (granules) obtained by adding release controlling agent to a mixture of i) physiologically active substance and ii) carrier substance in an amount of at least 50% by weight based on the weight of the product, and granulating the resultant mixture.
2. The pharmaceutical formulation as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier substance is crystalline cellulose.
3. The pharmaceutical formulation as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein the release controlling agent is an aqueous suspension of a water-insoluble macromolecular substance, an aqueous emulsion thereof, a water-containing organic-solvent solution thereof, or water.
4. The pharmaceutical formulation as claimed in claim 3, wherein the water-insoluble macromolecular substance is a methacrylic acid-ethyl acrylate copolymer or ethyl cellulose.
5. The pharmaceutical formulation as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the physiologically active substance is 5-[2-[2-(o-ethoxyphenoxyl)ethylamino]-1-oroxy]-2-methoxybenzenesulfonamide hydrochloride.

ride (YM-12617).

6. The pharmaceutical formulation as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the granulation product is granules of diameter 0.1 to 1.5 mm.

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FIG. 1

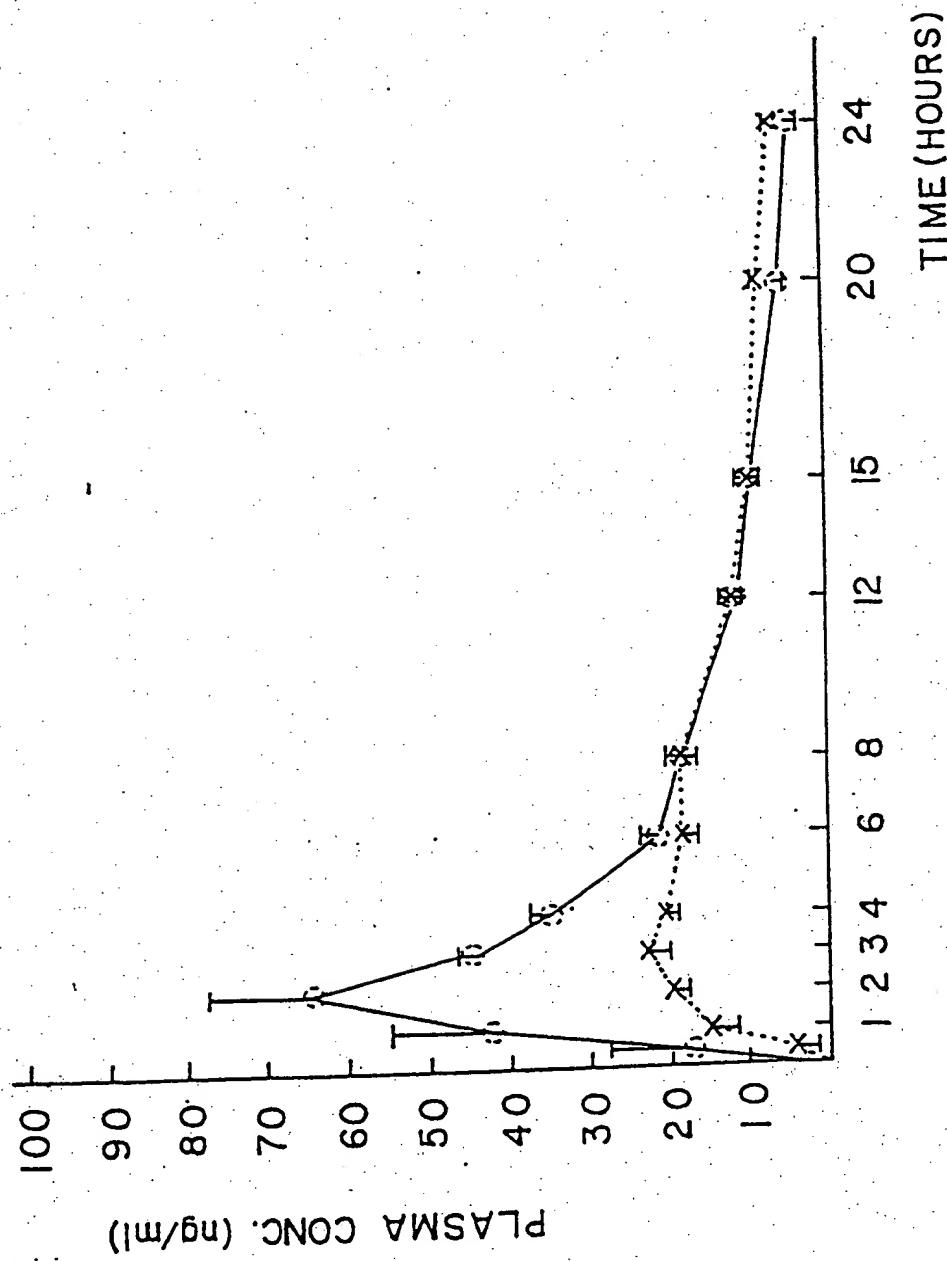


FIG. 2

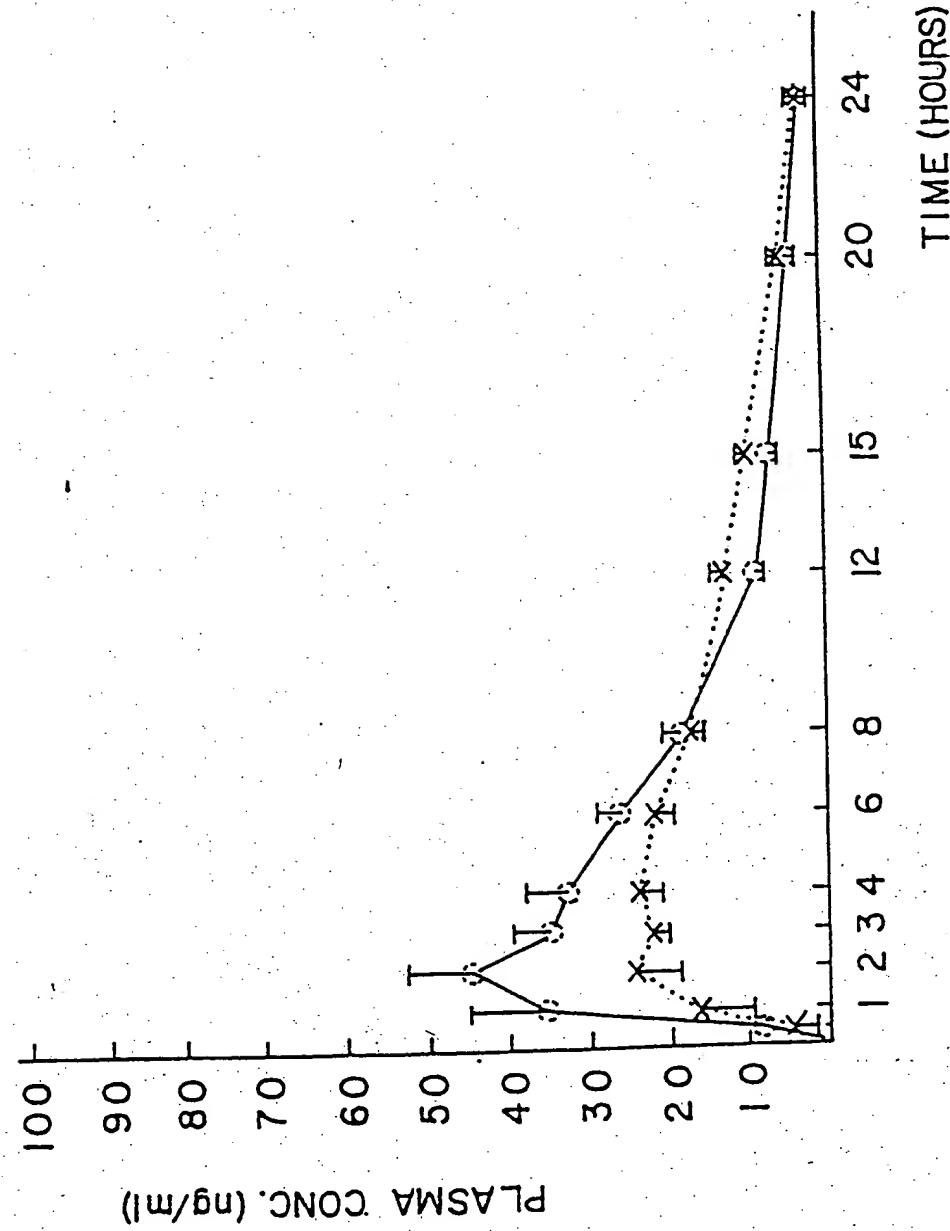
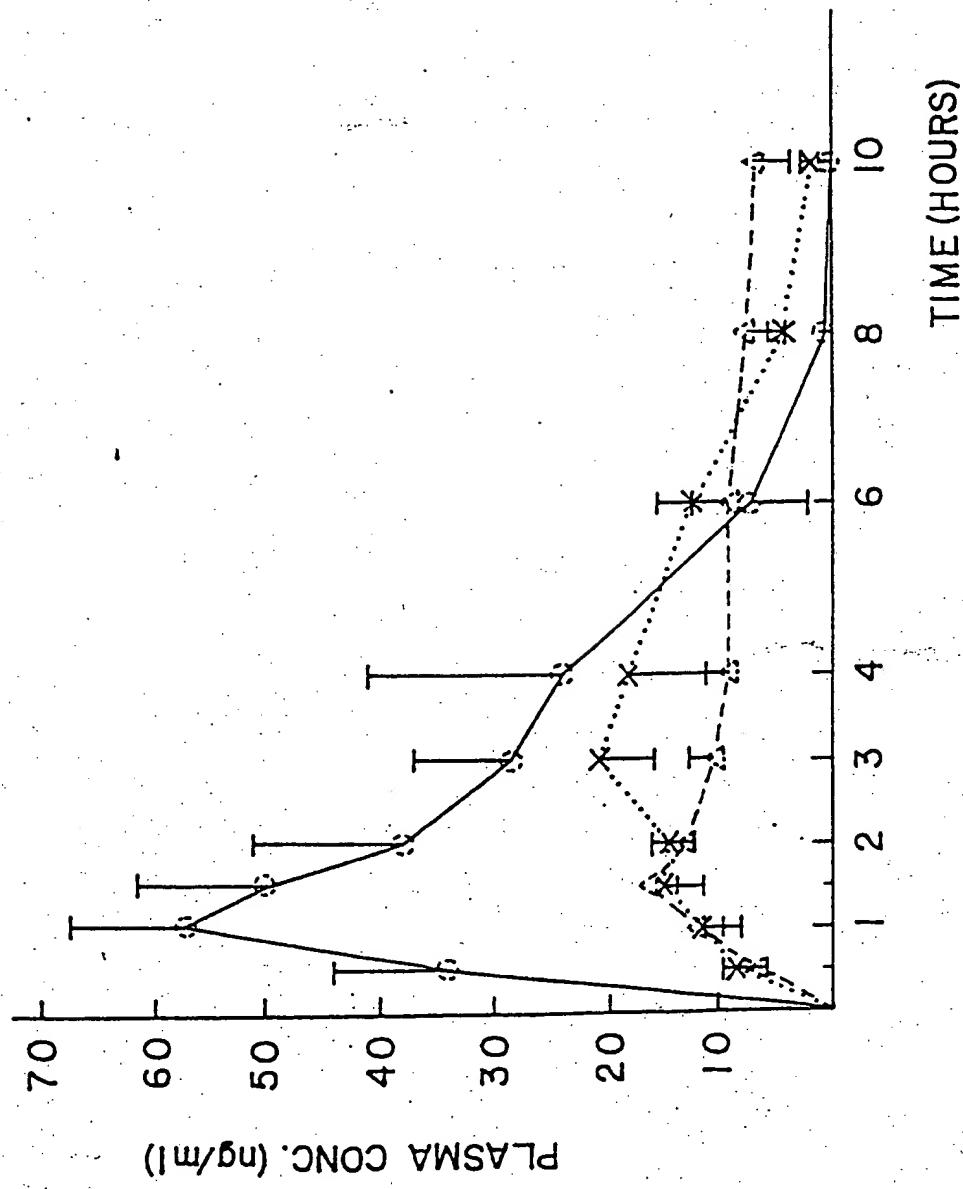


FIG. 3





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 92 20 3126

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
X	DD-A- 104 027 (LABORATOIRES SERVIER) * Claims 2,4,6; example 1; page 2, line 64 - page 3, line 33 *	1-4	A 61 K 9/16 A 61 K 9/22 A 61 K 31/18
A	DE-A-1 962 016 (UZINA DE MEDICAMENTE BUCURESTI) * Claims; example 1 *	1	
A	DE-A-1 467 781 (BOEHRINGER) * Claims 1-4; example 1 *	1,3	
E,A	EP-A-0 187 703 (TEIJIN) * Claims 1,4,7,8; comparative examples 2,5; example 6 *	1,3	
A	GB-A-2 075 839 (SHIONOGI SEIYAKU) * Claims 1,8,9; example 4; figure 4 *	1-4,6	
P,A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN, unexamined applications, C field, vol. 9, no. 160, 4th July 1985, THE PATENT OFFICE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT, page 144 C 289; & JP-A-60 036 410 (UNITIKA K.K.) 25-02-1985	1	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
A	DE-A-2 921 931 (INSTITUT FÜR ZELLSTOFF UND PAPIER) * Claims 1,2 *	1-3	A 61 K
		-/-	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	17-11-1992	BENZ K.F.	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
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Page 2

Application Number

EP 92 20 3126

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT																		
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. CL.5)															
A	US-A-4 489 026 (YALKOWSKY) * Column 4, line 42; claim 6; abstract * ---	1,2																
A	GB-A- 630 439 (BROWN et al.) * Claim 1; example 1 * ---	1,3																
A	DE-A-2 148 391 (CONTROLLED MEDICATIONS) * Claim 1; example * ---	1,3																
A	EP-A-0 034 432 (YAMANOUCHI PHARMACEUTICAL) * Example 20; claim 8 * -----	1,5																
TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. CL.5)																		
<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Place of search</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Date of completion of the search</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Examiner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>THE HAGUE</td> <td>17-11-1992</td> <td>BENZ K.F.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"> CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"> X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"> T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons A : member of the same patent family, corresponding document </td> </tr> </table>				Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	THE HAGUE	17-11-1992	BENZ K.F.	CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons A : member of the same patent family, corresponding document		
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